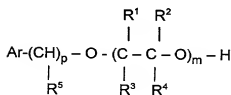


What is claimed is:

1. A process of removing paint from a non-water-soluble surface comprising contacting said paint on said surface with a composition comprised of water and a water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol containing at least two oxyalkylene moieties and an aromatic ring moiety which does not bear any alkyl substituent having more than 4 carbon atoms.
2. The process of claim 1 wherein the composition is additionally comprised of a water- soluble base.
3. The process of claim 2 wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides, alkali metal silicates, amines, and mixtures thereof.
4. The process of claim 2 wherein the base is an alkanolamine.
5. The process of claim 1 wherein said water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol is selected from the group consisting of ethoxylated phenols, ethoxylated benzyl alcohols, and mixtures thereof.
6. The process of claim 1 wherein said water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol contains from 2 to 10 oxyethylene moieties per molecule.
7. The process of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises from about 0.5 to about 30 weight percent of said water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol.
8. The process of claim 1 wherein said composition is maintained at a temperature of at least about 15°C.
9. The process of claim 1 wherein said composition is applied to said paint on said surface by spraying.
10. The process of claim 1 wherein said water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol is a mixture of compounds corresponding to the general structure



wherein m represents a positive integer which is from about 2 to about 10 on average for the mixture, each of R<sup>1</sup>–R<sup>4</sup>, independently for each and independently from one to another of the m instances of each R<sup>1</sup>–R<sup>4</sup> in the same molecule, represents either a

- covalently bonded hydrogen atom or a covalently bonded methyl moiety, subject to the proviso that at least about 80 number % of the moieties indicated by the symbols R<sup>1</sup>–R<sup>4</sup> in said mixture represent hydrogen atoms, Ar is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl moiety, subject to the proviso that Ar contains no alkyl substituent containing more than 2 carbon atoms, R<sup>5</sup> is selected from hydrogen or methyl, and p is 0 or 1.
- 5 2 carbon atoms, R<sup>5</sup> is selected from hydrogen or methyl, and p is 0 or 1.
11. A process of flushing paint from a non-water-soluble surface comprising contacting said paint on said surface with a composition comprised of :
- a) water;
  - b) water-soluble ethoxylated aromatic alcohol selected from the
- 10 group consisting of ethoxylated phenols, ethoxylated benzyl alcohols, and mixtures thereof, wherein said ethoxylated aromatic alcohol contains an aromatic ring moiety and an average of from about 2 to about 10 oxyethylene moieties per molecule but does not contain any alkyl substituent having more
- 15 than 2 carbons on said aromatic ring moiety; and
- c) water-soluble alkanolamine.
12. The process of claim 11 wherein said composition is additionally comprised of an alkali metal silicate.
13. The process of claim 11 wherein said composition is comprised of from about
- 20 10 to about 20 weight percent of water-soluble ethoxylated aromatic alcohol and from about 0.1 to about 2 weight percent water-soluble alkanolamine.
14. The process of claim 11 wherein water-soluble ethoxylated aromatic alcohol and water-soluble alkanolamine are present in said composition at a ratio by weight of from about 2:1 to about 30:1.
- 25 15. The process of claim 11 wherein said composition is applied to said paint by spraying.
16. The process of claim 11 wherein said non-water-soluble surface is a surface of a component of paint spraying equipment and said contacting is accomplished by circulating said composition through said component.
- 30 17. The process of claim 11 wherein said paint is uncured water-borne paint.
18. A process of flushing uncured water-borne paint from a non-water soluble surface of a component of paint spraying equipment comprising circulating a composition through said component to contact said uncured water-borne paint on said non-water-soluble surface, said composition comprising:

- 5
- a) water;
  - b) from about 1.0 to about 20 weight percent of water-soluble aromatic alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethoxylated unsubstituted phenols, ethoxylated unsubstituted benzyl alcohols and mixtures thereof, wherein said ethoxylated aromatic alcohol contains an average of from about 2 to about 10 oxyethylene moieties per molecule;
  - 10 c) from about 0.1 to about 2 weight percent of water-soluble alkanolamine;

wherein (b) and (c) are present in said composition in a weight ratio of from about 4:1 to about 20:1.

- 15
19. The process of claim 18 wherein said composition is additionally comprised of at least one additional component selected from the group consisting of surfactants, solvents, chelating agents and corrosion inhibitors.
20. The process of claim 18 wherein said composition is additionally comprised of from about 0.001 to about 0.1 weight percent alkali metal silicate.
21. A composition useful for removing paint from a non-water-soluble surface comprising:
- 20
- a) water;
  - b) a water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol containing at least two oxyalkylene moieties per molecule and an aromatic ring moiety in each molecule which does not bear any alkyl substituent having more than 4 atoms; and
  - 25 c) a water-soluble base.
22. The composition of claim 21 wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides, alkali metal silicates, amines, and mixtures thereof.
23. The composition of claim 21 wherein the base is an alkanolamine.
- 30 24. The composition of claim 21 wherein said water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol is selected from the group consisting of ethoxylated phenols, ethoxylated benzyl alcohols, and mixtures thereof.
25. The composition of claim 21 wherein said water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol contains from 2 to 10 oxyethylene moieties per molecule.

$$\text{Ar}-(\text{CH})_p-\text{O}-(\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{O})_m-\text{H}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{R}^5 \\ | \\ \text{Ar}-(\text{CH})_p-\text{O}-(\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{O})_m-\text{H} \\ | \quad | \quad | \\ \text{R}^1 \quad \text{R}^2 \quad \text{R}^3 \quad \text{R}^4 \end{array}$$

wherein m represents a positive integer which is from about 3 to about 10 on average, each of R<sup>1</sup> -R<sup>4</sup>, independently for each and independently from one to another of the m instances of each R<sup>1</sup> -R<sup>4</sup> in the same molecule, represents either a covalently bonded hydrogen atom or a covalently bonded methyl moiety, subject to the proviso that at least about 80 number % of the moieties indicated by the symbols R<sup>1</sup> -R<sup>4</sup> in said mixture represent hydrogen atoms, Ar is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl moiety, subject to the proviso that Ar contains no alkyl substituent containing more than 2 carbon atoms, R<sup>5</sup> is selected from hydrogen or methyl, and p is 0 or 1.

28. A composition useful for removing paint from a non-water-soluble surface comprising:
  - a) water;
  - b) water-soluble ethoxylated aromatic alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethoxylated phenols, ethoxylated benzyl alcohols, and mixtures thereof, wherein said ethoxylated aromatic alcohol contains an aromatic ring moiety and an average of from about 3 to about 10 oxyethylene moieties per molecule, but does not contain any alkyl substituent on said aromatic ring moiety having more than 2 carbons; and
  - c) water-soluble alkanolamine.
29. The composition of claim 28 wherein said composition is additionally comprised of alkali metal silicate.
30. The composition of claim 28 wherein said composition is comprised of from about 10 to about 20 weight percent water-soluble alkanolamine.
31. The composition of claim 28 wherein water-soluble ethoxylated aromatic alcohol and water-soluble alkanolamine are present in said composition at a

ratio by weight of from about 2:1 to about 30:1.

32. A composition useful for removing paint from a non-water-soluble surface comprising:

a) water;

b) from about 1.0 to about 20 weight percent of water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethoxylated unsubstituted phenols, ethoxylated unsubstituted benzyl alcohols, and mixtures thereof, wherein said ethoxylated aromatic alcohol contains an average of from about 3 to about 10 oxyethylene moieties per molecule;

c) from about 0.1 to about 2 weight percent of water-soluble alkanolamine;

wherein (b) and (c) are present in said composition in a weight ratio of from about 4:1 to about 20:1.

33. The composition of claim 32 wherein said composition is additionally comprised of at least one additional component selected from the group consisting of surfactants, solvents, chelating agents, and corrosion inhibitors.

34. The composition of claim 32 wherein said composition is additionally comprised of from about 0.001 to about 0.1 weight percent alkali metal silicate.